

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8121

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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NESCO

FOR IO - GEORGE DALLEY, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY

FOR AF - RICHARD M. MOOSE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO: DRAFT DECLARATION ON RACE AND RACIAL
PREJUDICE

REF: (A) PARIS 06027, (B) PARIS 07429

1. IN FEBRUARY 24 CONVERSATION WITH DG M'BOW (REF B) AMBASSADOR TORRES LED INTO MATTER OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION BY REFERRING TO RUMORS HE HAD HEARD THAT ARAB STATES MEMBERS OF UNESCO WOULD ATTEMPT TO GET A REFERENCE TO 3379 INCLUDED IN THE DECLARATION. IT WAS IN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO THESE REMARKS THAT THE DG GAVE HIS FIRM ASSURANCES THAT THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN TALKING WITH PEOPLE, BUT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY CITE ARAB REPS.

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2. LATER IN THIS PART OF THE CONVERSATION, THE DG SAID HE WOULD BE VISITING IRAQ. HE DID NOT SAY HE WOULD RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH THE IRAQUIS BEFORE THE MARCH 13-20 MEETING, BUT HE MADE THE STATEMENT AS A PART OF HIS REMARKS ON THE 3379 QUESTION.

3. AT IG MEETING MARCH 2, AMBASSADOR MOURIK, DUTCH

PERMREP, SAID HE HAD SPOKEN WITH ALGERIAN, TUNISIAN, AND EGYPTIAN PERMREPS, WHO REFERRED TO A CAUCUS OF THE ARAB PERM REPS HERE IN PARIS, AT WHICH THEY HAD AGREED THAT 3379 SHOULD BE INTRODUCED, PERHAPS BY A FORMULA REFERRING TO "ALL RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS ON RACE." HOWEVER, THERE ARAB PERMREPS TOLD MOURIK THAT THE AFRICAN PERMREPS HAD NOT YET CAUCUSED TO DECIDE THEIR POSITION. THE ARAB PERMREPS FELT THAT AFRICAN DESIRE TO GET A DECLARATION WAS SO STRONG THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO SUPPORT ATTEMPTS TO GET REFERENCE TO 3379 BECAUSE OF THE DAMAGE SUCH AN EFFORT WOULD DO TO PROSPECTS FOR WIDE AND SOLID SUPPORT OF THE DECLARATION. THE ARAB PERMREPS TOLD MOURIK THAT IN ABSENCE OF PROSPECTS FOR AFRICAN SUPPORT, THEY ARE NOT INCLINED TO PUSH HARD FOR 3379.

4. IN MARCH 3 MEETING BETWEEN M'BOW, LEONARD MARKS, AND AMBASSADOR TORRES, M'BOW STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN TALKING WITH AFRICAN REPS, AND THEY CLEARLY DO NOT WANT TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE DECLARATION BY PUSHING 3379. HE SAID THE ARABS ARE DIVIDED WITH MAJORITY FAVORING NOT RPT NOT ATTEMPTING TO GET 3379 INSERTED, WHILE MINORITY DOES FAVOR AN ATTEMPT. TUNISIAN PERMREP TOLD AMBASSADOR TORRES THAT THE GROUP IN FAVOR OF ATTEMPTING TO INSERT 3379 NUMBERS ONLY FIVE PERCENT OF THE ARAB MEMBERS.
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5. WE INVITE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO FACT THAT OUR REPORTING IS BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH PARIS-BASED AFRICAN AND ARAB PERMREPS, WHO HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS. IF DEPARTMENT DECIDES THAT US WILL PARTICIPATE IN FORTHCOMING MEETING, IT WOULD APPEAR ADVISABLE TO GO TO AFRICAN CAPITALS WITH A REQUEST THAT THEY OPPOSE EFFORTS TO INSERT REF TO 3379.
TORRES

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